

House Select Committee on Education Innovation

January 22, 2014
LIFT Academy
Charlotte, NC

WE ARE Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools

1. Overview of Gaston County Schools
2. Share best practices
Highland School of Technology
L.E.A.P. Program
Stuart W. Cramer High School
3. Share innovative methods to increase accessibility of education
4. Highlight current obstacles hindering innovation in education

Gaston County Schools

- 32,000 students
- 56 schools
- 81.2% Graduation Rate
- 60% poverty
- Total budget = \$350 million

Best Practices

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Best Practices

Highland School of Technology

- Opened July 2000
- Magnet School
- Recognized by State Board of Education 2008-2012 for 100% Graduation Rate
- 99.3% Graduation Rate

Best Practices

Highland School of Technology

- Focuses on Career & Technical Academies
 - Business, Legal & Information Sciences
 - Health Sciences
 - Manufacturing/Engineering & Graphics Technology



Best Practices

Leading Education and Preparing (L.E.A.P.)

- Focus on high risk students
- Additional resources
 - Intervention specialists
 - Social worker/Mental health clinician
- Scores improved
 - Reading EOG from 50% pass to 88% pass
- Attendance increased
- Discipline incidents decreased

Best Practices

Stuart W. Cramer High School

- Opened August 2013
- Available Seats: 1,300
- Academic Booster Club
- State of the art technology



New Gaston County HS
Cramerton, NC



August 2013

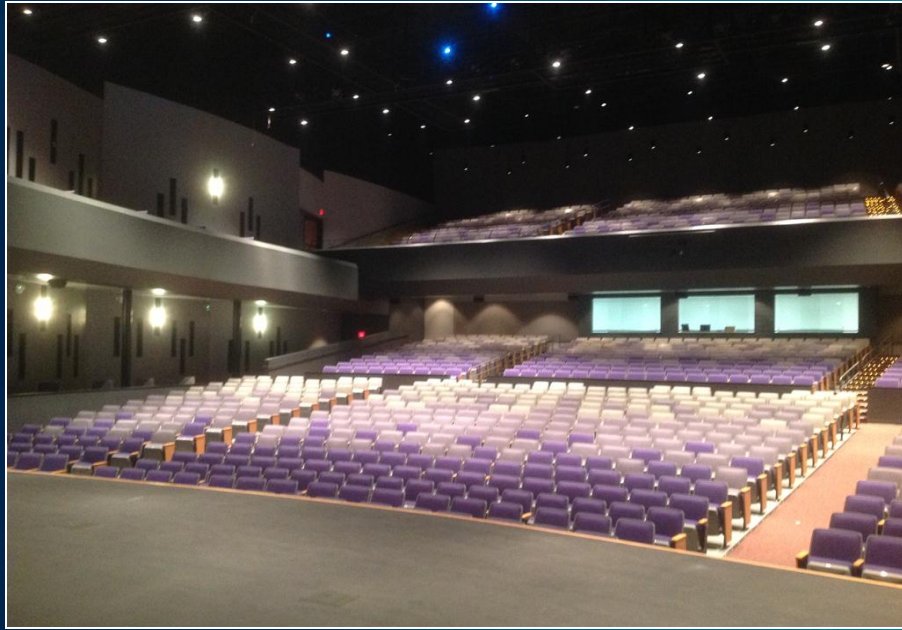


Design Rendering











Stuart W. Cramer HS

Project Lead the Way - Engineering

- National curriculum focusing on applied science, technology and mathematics
- Students take a sequence of courses that infuse hands on activities, team projects and problem based learning

Johnny Norton - Instructor

Best Practices

Innovative Methods

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Innovative Methods

North Carolina Virtual Public School

Graduate Gaston

Teaching & Learning

Innovative Methods

North Carolina Virtual Public School

- Teacher of Exceptional Children
Ashbrook High School

Lindsey Taylor, EC Teacher

Innovative Methods

Graduate Gaston

- Principals and staff identify potential dropouts
- District oversight began summer 2013
 - Reclaim: Return to original school assignment with support
 - Refer: Student is reassigned to different high school
 - Reinvent: Student's graduation pathway is restructured

Innovative Methods

Graduate Gaston

- Ongoing review of all students by school social workers and school counselors
- Graduate Gaston school teams meet to provide support in the home and community
- Graduate Gaston Central Office Team
 - Meetings with students and parents required prior to Adult High School enrollment

Innovative Methods

Graduate Gaston: Results

- Dropouts Decreased
 - 684 in 2006-2007
 - 231 in 2012-2013
- Four Year Graduation Rate Improvement
 - 68.1% in 2005-2006
 - 81.2% in 2012-2013

Innovative Methods

Graduate Gaston: Success Story



Innovative Methods

Teaching and Learning Conference

- Annual Conference
- 1,000 Attendees

Obstacles

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Obstacles

- Technology Availability
- Retention of Qualified Personnel
- Aging Infrastructure

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